

# **PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

Council President Dave Trzcianka called the Pre-Meeting of Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Baden Municipal Building, 149 State Street, to conduct business of general purposes.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Bosh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Stuban and Mr. Trzcianka

**NOT PRESENT:** Mr. Miller

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Montell, Chief and CEO Baker

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES**

## **AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)**

## **VISITORS**

- Ron Mulcahy from BIU came to meeting to answer resident's questions regarding the permitting for the construction of Ehman Avenue and Jefferson Street. Discussion included lot size for the construction of which Mr. Mulcahy stated that the property was sold by Baden Borough. Council is working on the ordinance to address the lot size and subdivision of the property. It was noted that there ARE many properties within Baden Borough that are less than 7500 square feet and would be unbuildable under Baden's current code. Mr. Mulcahy stated that the contractor bypassed the variance by asking council for an injunction relief which council is going resolve by adopting a new ordinance. In regards to the original lot size, Mr. Trzcianka stated that council was unaware of the lot size and they rely on the building inspector. Mr. Mulcahy noted that the original inspector was wrong in not checking the lot size. Mrs. Rakovan stated that there was no intentional oversight. When the contractor came to council regarding his construction plans he asked about building a duplex and subdividing. Lot size wasn't even thought of and the main concern was making sure the setbacks were within the borough code. Mr. Mulcahy confirmed that the setbacks are good. He explained that what is looked at is height limitations, setbacks and building code. Further conversation took place regarding the permitting process including the need for variances. In the end council stated that they are updating the code.
- Lois Sherman from Fourth Street representing the residents of Fourth Street who were present at the meeting addressed council in regards to a neighbor. This neighbor has put up spot lights all around the property that shine all night long onto and into the surrounding properties and homes. Every few hours this neighbor sets off her car alarm this includes during the night. Chief Christner informed council that he is well aware of this neighbor. Discussion took place regarding what could be done. Chief Christner stated that he would sit down with the Code Enforcement Officer and see what can be done. The CEO, Mr. Baker stated that he is looking into property code violations.
- Nathaniel Curry, an Eagle Scout presented and asked council if he could repoint the bricks at the Library Memorial and landscape the area for his Eagle Scout Project. Council welcomed his offer and asked that they get a copy of his plans. Discussion took place regarding a start date. Council asked that it take place after Memorial Day. Mayor Montell would assist with the plants selection since she is also the head of the Garden Club.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### Manager

**1. Baden Properties to Sell**

No response from Habitat for Humanity. Mrs. Rakovan asked to move forward with the sale of the properties.

Mrs. Singleton stated that she spoke with Pete and he is working on figures and will be contacting Mrs. Rakovan soon.

**2. Speed Humps/Traffic Calming**

Will install in the spring.

Discussion took place if a speed hump is still needed. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the speed hump is on hold for now.

**3. Theater**

Code Enforcement Officer has filed with the magistrate. Waiting for hearing date.

**4. Water Ordinance Update**

Working with the Solicitor.

**5. Time Clocks**

Office and Public Works time clocks are set up. Still need to do the police department.

**6. Phone System & Go Net Speed**

Started the process to move forward with the upgrade.

**7. Cameras for Water Tanks**

No update.

**8. Condominium/Row Houses**

After discussion with the attorney, he said that the ordinance should be done after the Planning Board approves the subdivision of the property.

**9. Library project**

There are pock marks on the concrete. Unfortunately, the blue salt that was used on the new concrete caused the pock marks. This is not an issue with the concrete.

**10. New Flooring**

The floor in the community room and hall area is complete. They are working on the police department.

**11. Workers Comp and Safety Board Committee**

The first meeting will be on March 14th.

Mrs. Rakovan explained what is being required for the committee which included two members from each department to attend the monthly meetings. This would take work time away from public works and require overtime for the police department. After discussion council determined that it is not feasible to have a committee, but all safety recommendations from our inspections must be addressed.

**12. 15 Minute Parking**

Confirming wording for signs. Ordinance will be ready for next week meeting.

**13. SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant**

Had a meeting last week. The goal is to advertise the bids in November. If there is enough funding they would like to include actual walk/don't walk signs.

**14. Beaver County ARPA Municipal Infrastructure Grants**

Engineer is working on the spec for the inlets (storm sewers)

**15. Annual Water Report**

Submitted the DEP Water Permit Compliance Report. There is an increase in lost water. Foreman Josapak was notified. Some reasons for the loss of water would be the overflow of the water tanks during the time when the SCADA system was down.

**16. PSAB Conference**

This year's conference is May 22 -25 at Hershey Lodge. Please let the borough secretary know by next month's meeting if you plan to attend.

**17. County Meeting**

The Beaver County Commissioners and the Emergency Services are working together to upgrade to digital radios. Meeting will be March 16, 2022 at 2:00 PM in the Community College Dome. To be included in the project there must be representatives from the borough and a list of radio needs for the both the police and fire department. Following this meeting there will be a meeting with the commissioners regarding the reassessments of properties.

Mr. Trzcianka explained the digital radio purchase opportunity through the county. The county will pick up 80% of the cost for Motorola radios.

**18. CBDG Application**

Application is complete and being submitted to the county for consideration.

**Public Works**

Not Present

**Fire Chief**

Chief Baker stated that there were 14 calls for the month. 76 calls year to date. Twenty-five firefighters participated in 165 hours of training and staffing last month. Firefighter One training starts this week. Ladder truck will have annual ariel inspection next week. He stated that the borough's bucket truck is also due for inspection. Fire Department pickup truck has been repaired and inspected. The fire department did put together a committee to research purchasing a new truck. They are looking at a 2023 Chevy 3500 pickup truck. Total cost with outfitting it is \$56,000 that will be paid for by the Baden Fire Department. Chief Baker went over the grants that they have received and are or have applied for. They are waiting on the DCED consultant to start the fire department consolidation study. Discussion took place regarding Conway's request to supply fire service to them.

**Code Enforcement Officer**

Chief Baker stated that he sent out the mechanical device letters and addressing complaints. The vacant property on Ehman Avenue is an issue. The police have been called to the property multiple times. It is in deplorable condition and he is trying to get contact information for the mortgage company. He is posting the property as condemned.

**Police Chief**

Chief Christner stated that he had a meeting with Prevention Network. The new officer was trained and is working out well. The Prevention Network did ask for proof of hours worked so a copy of the officer's timesheet will be given to them each pay period.

Chief Christner addressed his concern that the state now says that part time police will need to be hired through Civil Service.

Mr. Stuban asked that extra patrols be put out for traffic (speeding, stop signs, overweight vehicles,...) throughout the borough. He said more than one officer will be fine.

Mr. Stuban told Chief Christner on behalf of council to remove the tint from the police vehicle windows.

Chief Christner stated that he will put an adjusted schedule at the end of the month on clip board.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance (John Shelkons)**

General Fund Balance	\$210,110	Expenses	\$214,529
Water Fund Balance	\$286,774	Expenses	\$89,792

Mr. Shelkons stated that everyone had a copy of the budget and it looks good.

### **Public Works, Sanitation & Municipal Authority (John Jones)**

Nothing to report.

Mr. Trzcianka commented that with all the issues with our equipment there is a company called Redfabco and the owner Ben Jones will come in and evaluate all of the borough equipment for \$65/hour.

Mr. Trzcianka also noted that after speaking to the road crew they would prefer a skid steer vs wheel loader. Discussion followed.

### **Technology, Social Media, Library & Community Relations (Joe Bosh)**

**Website** - Mr. Bosh is working on contents for the website.

**Online Water Bill Payments** – Mr. Bosh asked about accepting water bill payments online. Mr. Stuban addressed having an outside company collect water bill payments. He noted that the Municipal Authority is considering to not continue their agreement to pay \$80,000 per year for borough services.

**Library** – The camera has been installed at the door entrance and light bulbs changed by public works. They are doing the soup fundraiser this year for election day. The bench from the Women’s Club has been ordered.

### **Administration & Legislation (Doug Miller)**

Not present.

### **General Government, Building Property/Grounds, Parks & Rec (Dawn Singleton)**

**Banner Program** - Mrs. Singleton stated that they are continuing with the banner program. The double-sided package is \$145. Updated packets are in the borough office.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – Mrs. Singleton stated that the Easter Egg Hunt was this past weekend and it was a success.

**Resignations** – Rachel Neish and Julie Throckmorton resigned from the Parks and Recreation Board.

**PUC Meeting** – Mr. Shelkons stated that meeting with the PUC and Norfolk Southern will be at 1:00 on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Yard Sale** – The advertisements and requests for the yard sale will be done by the Recreation Board and any profits will go to the Recreation Board.

### **Public Safety (Michael Stuban)**

**Drinking Water Sustainability Grant** – This grant is for communities under 10,000 people. Applications will be open this summer. He would like to make a motion to have the engineer work on this grant when it becomes available.

**Decorative Pear Trees** – They are no longer permitted to be planted in Pennsylvania as they are an invasive species.

**Negotiations** – Mr. Stuban stated that both the street and office staff negotiations will be taking place in June. Council will need to prepare budgeting and items to address.

**Street Foreman** - Although not confirmed in writing the Street Foreman has told Mr. Stuban that his last day of work will be in October. If council wants to replace him we need to look at our options and start the hiring process. Discussion took place regarding qualifications for the position.

**Thank You Dinner** – Mr. Stuban was considering having the dinner on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Police Regionalization Meeting** – Mr. Stuban stated that upon consolidated budget information the current cost to the borough would be an additional \$200,000 per year. The main reason for the large increase is that the calculations are based upon Harmony Township hourly rate of \$38/hour. More research is needed and the next meeting in May will be held in Baden.

**Incentive Program for Fire Department** – Mr. Stuban stated that he would like to bring up the incentive program for vote next week. His only stipulation is that this a yearly budgeted item and not guaranteed each year.

**Inspections of Commercial and Rental Property** - Mr. Stuban addressed charging \$50 for inspection of rental properties with three or more units and the inspection is good for two years.

**Emergency Management** – Mr. Stuban stated that the Emergency Management Coordinator will be here at 5:30 next week to go over the emergency water situation that took place with Ambridge Water Authority.

**Code Enforcement Officer** – Mr. Stuban stated that after meeting he wants to go into executive session regarding wages and duties of the newly appointed Code Enforcement Officer.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Montell stated that the American Legion has invited all of council to the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>. Line up will be at 9:15AM at the Byersdale Field. Please let Mayor Montell know if you are planning to attend.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**Shed** - Mr. Trzcianka stated that a 10 x 20 cinderblock building would be \$3,500. He is working on prices for concrete, truces, shingles and metal roofing. He thinks the price should be under \$10,000.

**Properties that need looked at by the CEO** – Mr. Trzcianka asked about the property next to the pump house on State Street that is falling apart. Mrs. Singleton asked about a wall that is falling by her house. Chief Baker stated that he would look into both properties.

**Street Lights** – Mr. Trzcianka commented that there are a lot of street lights out in town that the police need to turn in to Duquesne Light.

**Electronic Sign** – Mr. Trzcianka asked about looking into getting an electronic sign for the borough that could be remotely changed.

### **Old Business Not on the Agenda, New Business or Unfinished Business**

**Civil Service** – Mrs. Trzcianka stated that she is has reached out to the contact for testing but has not heard back from him yet.

**Tool Bash** – Mr. Niehenke asked that all of the parking lots be swept for the Tool Bash that will be at the fire department on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. he also asked that the leaves be swept or mulched.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM and go into executive session to discuss personnel.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan  
Borough Secretary  
May 11, 2022